

You have the power to alter this condition of things, if you care to exert it. Will you do so? Do you care to see a change?

It seems hardly necessary to call the attention of our members to the value of a complete file of information relating to **THE A. M. A. licensed physicians, for in this DIRECTORY.** State an official Register has been published for nearly twenty years. Heretofore, however, there has been no such registration of information covering the entire United States, and all published Registers or Directories have been very faulty. It is for that reason that the American Medical Association has undertaken to compile this data and then to publish a directory which will be really reliable. Every physician in the State should fill out and return promptly the information blank which has been sent him by the secretary of the A. M. A. All of the information requested will not be used for publication, any more than all the information asked for on the cards which we use for our State work appears in our Register; but it is necessary for identification purposes. Please be prompt about sending in the information blanks, and thus expedite the work of bringing out a good directory.

DR. McCORMACK'S ADDRESSES ON ORGANIZATION.

(Concluded from page 377, Vol. III, No. 12.)

Most of the meetings of county medical societies in the past, and many at the present time, are not of very great value. In too many instances the proceedings will be about as follows: A summary of minutes will be read, and then Dr. Blank will be called upon to read a paper. This is liable to be upon the treatment of typhoid fever, proper management of labor, or, if it is in the spring, on the summer diarrhea of infants. The paper is made up of extracts from some long-since antiquated textbook, and both it and the author should have had several new editions brought out to bring it up to date. After the paper is read there will be a profound silence, until the presiding officer states that the paper is now before the society and calls upon Dr. X. to open the discussion. Dr. X. arises and his discussion is apt to be about as follows: "Mr. President and fellow members, I fear that I have not been so regular an attendant at the meetings of our county society in the past as I should have been. But when I listen to such an excellent paper as has been presented to us to-night by Dr. Blank, I feel that I shall be more regular in the future. Dr. Blank has presented such a masterly paper and has placed the information so clearly before you, that there seems to me to be nothing left that

I can add to what he has said. I will therefore ask you to excuse me and call upon some other member, who may possibly be able to add to the subject under discussion." That sort of a meeting is almost enough to make any studious and hard working physician keep away from his county society more industriously than ever.

By contrast, consider what a county society should do, and what a few are doing at the present time. Its secret of success is in work; regular, systematic work. It should meet once a week, or oftener, if possible, and regular courses of work should be outlined and taken up. From September to May, the business of the county society, and of every member of it, should be to make the society a practical post-graduate medical school. In order to secure the evenings free, physicians should make their night rates go into effect at 8 o'clock, and should advise their patients that they will get better attention at half the cost if they will have the forethought to call their physician, when they need him, before that hour. Nine out of every ten night calls are totally unnecessary; the doctor might just as well have been called before eight, or the next day; generally when the doctor is called out at night it is due to unthinking selfishness.

There is not a physician who has been in practice for any number of years who has not grown rusty in some branches, and who would not be improved by regular courses of study. Who of us who has not been constantly at work in the dissecting room would not be improved by a good course in practical anatomy? Who would not benefit by a course on materia medica which would take up the work of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry and talk plain facts as to the nature and composition of the many fraudulent nostrums recommended to our profession? As individuals, we do not know the real truth about most of these things, and our medical journals tell us only the manufacturers' side.

Every one of the regular lines of medical study should be taken up by the county society and regular courses of work followed. There is not a single advantage that is open to doctors in New York or Paris or Berlin that is not open to every member of every county medical society, if he will but work for it. If the members will abide together in peace and charity, looking after their own and each others' interests and working together for the common good, they will all be better doctors and the public will more nearly receive what it expects—competent medical attendance. Different members should go to other places from time to time, and take post-graduate work and then come back and give the county society the benefit of their studies. In a well-organized and properly operating county medical

society, there will hardly be a time when some member is not away doing this work, the other members looking after his practice while he is away.

The old plan of desultory and generally worthless papers and aimless discussion should be done away with, and regular courses of work substituted for it. Occasional meetings should be arranged with the legal fraternity, and subjects of common interest discussed. It will be found that most of our lawyers do not know what the physicians are trying to do, nor what the legislation which they advocate really means. It is all altruistic and the public and not the medical profession benefits. This absence of self-interest should not only be clearly shown to the lawyers, but also to the clergy, and to that end meetings should be held with the ministerial association of the county, and the ministers educated to the harm they are doing in supporting quacks and nostrums and giving testimonials to them. The members of these other professions cannot be expected to know the real truth about things medical and sanitary unless we teach them. It should be the duty of each county medical society to undertake this educational work.

The county society should also have a committee on publicity, and through this committee give articles to the local papers on subjects of general interest. The people should know, for instance, that it is to their own advantage to maintain good fees so that their physicians may study and equip themselves and thus be ready to give the best of medical attention. A poor doctor is a dangerous doctor, and if the people make the doctor poor, they are the ones who suffer.

If the county society meets often, undertakes and follows regular and systematic work, and does the various duties which have been outlined and which, heretofore, have been neglected, there will be much less time for personal fights and quarrels. What is needed to make a good county society is work, and this they should all arrange for and undertake.

Proprietary Association of America.

This is the organization of philanthropists and public benefactors, many of whom are good enough and have sufficient of the milk of human kindness in their hearts to furnish alcohol, cocain, morphine, etc., to man, woman or child who can be persuaded into self-dosing by lying advertisements. It held a meeting on December 4, 1905, and we are informed that some sixty members attended. Doubtless "Peruna," "Hostetter's Bitters," and others of the alcoholics were cheek by jowl with the deadly "soothing syrups" and "catarrh cures." It must have been a merry gathering, so near to the glad some Christmas time, and doubtless the sixty odd philanthropists thought often of the homes they have—shall we say absorbed?—and the lives they have ruined in the regular course of their honest and ennobling occupations.

They passed some resolutions. The resolutions are absolutely astounding. Scarcely ever has this

country seen an exhibition of greater or more coldly calculating sarcasm. Imagine these sellers of alcoholics and morphine or cocain nostrums objecting to doing the very things that support them! Imagine them trying to secure honest laws to honestly control the sale of cocain! But there is no use trying to discuss the matter longer; words are insufficient. Just read the resolutions. If it were not to weep, it would be to laugh.

Resolved, That this association thoroughly disapproves of any effort on the part of any person or firms, members of this association or not, to market as medicines any articles which are intended to be used as alcoholic beverages or in which the medication is insufficient to bring the preparation properly within the category of legitimate medicines.

Resolved, That the Legislative Committee be and is hereby instructed to earnestly advocate legislation which shall prevent the use of alcohol in proprietary medicines for internal use in excess of the amount necessary as a solvent and preservative.

Resolved, That the Legislative Committee be also instructed to continue its efforts in behalf of legislation for the strictest regulation of the sale of cocain and other narcotics and poisons or medicinal preparations containing the same.

Resolved, That this association urges upon its members the most careful scrutiny of the character of their advertising and of claims for the efficacy of their various prescriptions, avoiding all over statements.

THE MEDICAL NEWS.

It is with regret that we read the announcement that our old friend, *The Medical News*, is to pass out of the hands of the Messrs. Lea Brothers and Company into that of the A. R. Elliott Publishing Company on January 1, '06.

The attitude of the latter concern in the matter of nostrum advertising is well known and we believe thoroughly disapproved by the medical profession, and we doubt whether the *News* will ever do as well under the new management as it has done in the past.

The day of the privately owned weekly medical journal is passing away. Its place will be taken by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and the various state journals.

Like the medical colleges of the present day, only the very best and the very worst can live. Mediocre medical institutions are not wanted, so the privately owned respectable journals are ceasing to pay as an investment. They are too expensively run to admit of their being sold for a dollar or two a year, and they are not sufficiently large and interesting to compete with the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Furthermore, the profession is awakening to the fact that all of these privately owned journals are managed primarily for the profit of their owners and secondarily for the true interests of the profession. Their circulation and influence are bound to decline, especially when published by a business house willing to defy and deride the movement, now so successfully launched, to purify the advertising columns of the national and state journals and to keep them pure.

The good will of the profession must be behind any journal, if it is to succeed, and we think that the management of the *New York Medical Journal* has forfeited this good will.—*Jnl. Med. Soc. of New Jersey*.

On the evening of Tuesday, December 26th, at the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church in this city, Dr. John Crockett Newton was married to Miss Frances May Sanborn.